

REMARKS

Claims 14-20 have been rejected as being anticipated by Braunlich et al. In response, claim 14 has been amended, and claims 18 and 20 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of pending claims 14-17 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 is directed toward a method of playing a card game between two or more players. A pair of decks are provided, with each of the provided the decks including a plurality of battle cards having at least attack power and defense power indicated thereon, a plurality of effect indication cards having an effect indicated thereon that is brought into play when used, and a plurality of cost payment cards to be used for cost payment. Further, each of the battle cards and/or the plurality of effect indication cards respectively have an indication of additional attack power thereon. Each of the cost payment cards have a symbol thereon indicating that each card belongs to one of a plurality of category groups. Finally, each of the battle cards have the one or more symbols thereon indicating cost required to place the battle card on a play field.

Each player has a hand of cards and a deck of cards and draws one or more battle cards from the hand of cards and places them on the play field. Each player uses the cost payment card to pay cost and draws one or more cards from the deck of cards.

To pay cost, the game playing method of claim 14 requires each player to use the cost payment card having the symbol which is same as one of the one or more symbols on the battle card placed on the play field.

Finally, if the one or more cards drawn from the deck of cards are the one or

more battle cards and/or effect indication cards, the additional attack power indicated on the one or more cards drawn from said deck of cards is added to the attack power indicated on the one or more battle cards placed on the play field, and a sum value of the attack power and the additional power is used in a battle.

It is respectfully submitted that Braunlich does not teach or suggest the method of claim 14.

For example, Braunlich does not teach or suggest providing a deck of cards for each player, wherein each deck of cards includes a plurality of cost payment cards and a plurality of battle cards, wherein each of the cost payment cards has a symbol thereon indicating that each card belongs to one of a plurality of category groups, and wherein the battle cards have one or more symbols thereon indicating cost required to place the battle card on the play field, as required by amended claim 14. The Examiner has indicated that symbol 114 on the Braunlich character card 100 is used to indicate costs. This is believed to be in error as Braunlich states, at Col. 6, lines 33-35, that "The counters 114 are used to control and limit the amount of cards deployed in any give turn". The counters 114 are not used to determine cost payments that are required to play the battle (character) card, but rather to limit the number (power) of cards that is played in any given turn. The portion of Braunlich cited by the Examiner (Col. 7, line 66 to Col. 8, line 2) and the succeeding paragraph supports the applicant's interpretation of the counters 114 and refutes the Examiner's position. Thus, it is believed that the counters 114 cannot be cited as teaching a symbol indicating a cost required to play the battle card.

Further, and with continued reference to claim 14, Braunlich does not teach or suggest that "to pay cost, each player uses said cost payment card having the

symbol which is same as one of the one or more symbols on the battle card placed on the play field". The Examiner has cited the Braunlich 'location card 300' as being equivalent to the claimed cost payment card, and has referred to symbol 304 as indicating that each card belongs to one of a plurality of category groups. It is believed that the Examiner's interpretation of the Braunlich location card 300 is in error.

According to Braunlich, the location card 300 is used to determine the location of the game (Col. 7, lines 33-36). There is no indication or suggestion in Braunlich that the location card is "used to pay cost", as is required of the claimed "cost payment card". The Examiner's attention to this fact is requested.

It is noted that the character card 100 has a pair of (i.e., upper and lower) 'additional power' symbols 110 that may match a symbol on the location card 300. Should the additional power symbol match the symbol on the currently played location card, the player will receive additional power, as shown on the character card 100. In this regard, reference is made to the first full paragraph in Col. 9. However, it is clear that Braunlich does not teach that to pay cost, each player uses the costs payment card (location card 300) having the symbol which is same as one of the one or more symbols on the battle card (character card 100) placed on the play field. Rather, in the Braunlich game, the location card 300 is already in play, and the correlation between symbols on the location card 300 and the character card 100 is only used to increase the power of the character's attach. There is no payment of cost with the Braunlich location card. Clearly, since only one location card is played at any given time, and is already on the play field when the battle begins, it is considered apparent that Braunlich does not teach a card playing

method wherein the 'location card' is used to pay costs for the battle.

With continued reference to claim 14 it is noted that that Braunlich does not disclose or suggest that "if said one or more cards drawn from said deck of cards are said one or more battle cards and/or effect indication cards, said additional attack power indicated on said one or more cards drawn from said deck of cards is added to said attack power indicated on said one or more battle cards placed on said play field, and a sum value of said attack power and said additional power is used in a battle", as required. The portion of Braunlich cited by the Examiner and discussed previously teaches adding additional power to a character's attack should the additional power symbol 110 on the character card match the associated symbol on the location card 300. There is no suggestion or mention that additional attack power indicated on a battle card (Braunlich's character card 100) drawn from a deck of cards is added to the attack power of the battle card placed on the play field. The Examiner's attention to this further distinction is requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 14 is not anticipated by Braunlich. Thus, claim 14, and claims 15-17 and 19 that depend therefrom, are allowable over the art of record.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. NIS-14976.

Respectfully submitted,

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